

less than the poverty level for a family of two. The real value of the minimum wage today is 30 percent below its peak in 1968 and 19 percent below where it stood in 1981 at the start of the Reagan Administration. Even if the minimum wage is increased to \$6.65 by 2004, the real value of the minimum wage will still be below its 1981 level. However, by enacting this legislation we will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers, better enabling them to support themselves and their families and to more fully participate in our economy.

Raising the minimum wage to \$6.65 will lift the wages of seven million low-wage workers. While women make up less than half of the workforce, sixty-one percent of the workers who will benefit from a minimum wage increase are women. One-third of the affected workers who benefit from a minimum wage increase are African American or Hispanic, though those groups together make up less than a quarter of the workforce. A minimum wage increase is especially beneficial to workers in low-wage industries and occupations, including those employed in sales, service, and food preparation, and especially those in retail trade.

A \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage will add \$3,000 to the annual income of full-time minimum wage workers. For a low-income family of three, \$3000 means 15 months of groceries, 7 months of utilities, or tuition for a community college degree. Enacting this legislation will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers and better enable them to support themselves, their families and the economy. Work should pay. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, a fair increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. The failure of Congress to increase the minimum wage is driving more and more working families into poverty. We owe it to them and to the Nation to act quickly on this legislation.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 966, DISABLED VETERANS' RETURN-TO-WORK ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. EVANS, I am introducing H.R. 966, the Disabled Veterans' Return-to-Work Act of 2003. This bill reinstates a VA pilot program which expired on December 31, 1995.

H.R. 966 would ensure the availability of vocational training to newly eligible VA non-service-connected pension recipients. The program, open to those veterans age 45 years or younger, would provide disabled pension recipients the opportunity to receive training in order to return to the job market. There are many ways our veterans can and do contribute to the economy. Those veterans receiving non-service-connected pension are in effect discouraged from seeking employment because of the needs-based structure of VA's Pension Program, whereby every dollar they earn is offset from the amount of monthly pension they receive.

Mr. Speaker, I expect the Veterans' Affairs Committee to consider this bill during the 1st

Session of the 108th Congress. It is time to reinstate the pilot providing vocational training to certain pension recipients rather than requiring these veterans to rely solely on the VA pension program and health care system for the remainder of their lives. I believe the pilot program indeed will furnish data showing that many of these veterans desire independence from, not dependence on, the current non-service-connected pension program.

CANADIAN PLEA IN AIR INDIA CASE COVERS UP GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Canadian courts accepted a plea bargain from Inderjit Singh Reyat in a case related to the bombing of an Air India jet in 1985 that killed 329 people. The plea covers up the clear and strong evidence that the Indian government itself blew up the airplane.

The book *Soft Target*, written by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail and Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star, shows that the story agreed to by Mr. Reyat matches a story first suggested in 1985 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). A Sikh named Lal Singh reported that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" for false testimony in the case. He turned down that offer. There are some questions about whether the evidence in Reyat's first trial was valid, according to the National Post.

Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote a book called *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned about a Polish-Canadian double agent who was approached by the Indian government to carry out a second bombing*. *Soft Target* shows that the Indian Consul General in Toronto knew more than the RCMP and the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) in the early hours of the investigation. Why did his daughter and wife, a friend of his who was an auto dealer, and the director of North American operations for the Indian government all cancel their reservations on the doomed flight at the last minute, Mr. Speaker?

Even if the Indian government's story that a Sikh carried the bomb onto the plane is true, it implicates them. The person they have identified is associated with a Sikh activist named Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, who was identified in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* as someone who has been supported by the Indian government and has worked at its behest, including cooperating with them on the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Thus, even the Indian government's own version of the story places the blame squarely on the Indian government.

Back on July 26, 1992, the India Monitor reported the arrest in Bombay of a Sikh named Manjit Singh in connection with the Air India case. The RCMP, however, said it knew of no Manjit Singh and he was not a suspect. The Indian government has been desperately trying to pin its crime on the Sikhs for years.

The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on the Reyat case. I

would like to place it in the RECORD at this time, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN COURTS COVER UP INDIAN COMPLICITY IN BOMBING

REYAT PLEA MATCHES RCMP STORY SUGGESTED IN 1985 QUESTIONING

WASHINGTON, DC., Feb. 12, 2003.—The recent plea bargain by Inderjit Singh Reyat in the 1985 Air India crash is the result of a concerted Indo-Canadian effort to cover up the Indian government's own responsibility for this atrocity that killed 329 innocent people, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence.

The book *Soft Target*, written by respected Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail and Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star, clearly established that the Indian government is responsible for the bombing. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) who said, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

Mere hours after the incident, while the CSIS and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were still retrieving the passenger list stored in the Air India computer, Indian Consul General Surinder Malik called the Globe and Mail to tell them to look for an "L. Singh" on the passenger manifest. How could Malik have known this? "L. Singh" turned out to be a Sikh named Lal Singh. Lal Singh told an Indian newspaper that he was offered "\$2 million and settlement in a nice country" to testify falsely against the three individuals that Canada has charged with the bombing, an offer he refused. Curiously, Consul General Malik knew more details about the case than the police did.

Malik had pulled his wife and daughter off the flight suddenly, claiming that his daughter had a paper to write for school. A Canadian auto dealer who was a friend of Malik's cancelled his reservation on the flight at the last minute, as well. So did Siddhartha Singh, head of North American Affairs for external relations in New Delhi. In addition the sister-in-law of the head of the Canadian wing of Dal Khalsa cancelled her reservations. Dal Khalsa is a political party formed by Zail Singh, who was President of India when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. How did all these people affiliated with the Indian government come to cancel their reservations at the last minute?

The story told in court in connection with Inderjit Singh Reyat's plea bargain matches in significant detail the story pressed upon him at the time of his initial arrest in November 1985, which he denied. An RCMP agent named Glen Rockwell told Reyat that he could get off the hook if he said that others hatched the bombing plot and sought his assistance and that he didn't know what he was doing. Reyat replied "I didn't help killing those people. No way." He said that Talwinder Singh Parmar, who has since been murdered by the Indian police, wanted to send some kind of explosive device to India. These details match the "statement of facts" at Reyat's trial.

The Indian Consul General planted a story in the Globe and Mail claiming that Reyat was given a parcel to carry onto the flight by Jagdev Nijjar, whose brother was in the inner circle of Jagjit Singh Chohan, who claims to be a Khalistani leader, but who was exposed in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* by Professor Gurtej Singh IAS in letters showing that he connived with the Indian government in planning the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Chohan is also tied to Dal Khalsa. If the Indian government really believes that Chohan's followers were involved in the incident, then why wasn't Chohan arrested when he returned to India last year?

A Member of the Canadian Parliament, David Kilgour, confirms the Indian government's involvement. In his book *Betrayal: The Spy That Canada Forgot*, he writes about a Canadian-Polish double agent who was introduced to Indian government agents. They asked him to join in their plot to carry out a second bombing of an Air India jet, telling him that "the first one worked so well."

The evidence clearly continues to show that the Indian regime blew up its own airliner to damage the Sikh freedom movement," said Dr. Aulakh. "This is consistent with the pattern of Indian government efforts to protect its tyrannical rule over the minorities of South Asia"

The government of India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. Last March, the Indian government murdered 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, according to the newspaper *The Hindu*. Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

"Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

RENEWABLE FUEL EQUITY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague Mr. HUNTER of California in introducing the Renewable Fuel Equity Act. I'm grateful to my colleague for his leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with him to build bipartisan support for this important legislation.

We all know we need to expand and diversify our production of energy from renewable resources. The legislation we have introduced today would help us do this by providing tax incentives for new renewable energy development.

Solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and geothermal energy are each potentially enormous energy resources. Every state has renewable energy potential. But the various kinds of renewable resources are not spread uniformly across the country. Current tax law creates regional and technological inequities by failing to provide uniform benefits for all renewable energy resources. For example, the Section 45 production tax credit enacted in 1992 has spurred significant new investment, but it only applies to power plants using wind power.

That's why we need to expand this proven incentive to all renewable energy sources.

Clean power production provides greater reliability for our electricity system while promoting cleaner air and water. Renewable energy sources provide reliable power that is cost-effective over the long run, but their high initial capital cost discourages investment. Providing tax incentives for new renewable power production can make the difference.

The Hunter-Udall bill also offers incentives for smaller power systems, particularly those not connected to the grid, as these systems are unlikely to get an effective stimulus from the production tax credit. Under current law, the production tax credit does not apply to off-grid systems, and it is complex for a small farm or business to use. To address such situations, our legislation would make a 20 percent investment tax credit available to all small renewable technologies as an alternative.

Investment in new renewable power is good for the economy and the environment, and studies show that providing these tax incentives will spur new investment without cutting Treasury revenues. The Hunter-Udall bill makes good sense.

I look forward to working with my colleague and with Congress to get this sensible legislation passed.

HONORING THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC AND THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of introducing a resolution on behalf of the North Carolina's unanimous, bipartisan delegation honoring the City of Fayetteville and its Festival of Flight Celebration. We are introducing this resolution so that all in Congress and the entire nation can pay tribute to this city and its accomplishments.

Fayetteville's Festival of Flight will be the largest public event in the state marking the Wright Brothers' historic first flight, and it is one of only four events nationwide endorsed as a full partner by the United States Centennial of Flight Commission. The Festival of Flight will take place May 16-26, 2003, and it will feature a weekend arts festival, a military air show at Pope Air Force Base, a general aviation show at Grannis Field and an exposition with aviation displays and interactive exhibits depicting the past, present and future of flight.

Education is a focus of the Festival of Flight, and the State of North Carolina has developed a year-long curriculum to encourage students' interest in aviation and flight technology. This educational focus will culminate with 1,000 students and teachers being sponsored each day for exclusive access to the Festival's Aviation Exposition.

Mr. Speaker, the Fayetteville Festival of Flight is about dreaming big and reaching for the stars. It is a celebration of 12 historic seconds in 1903 that ushered in the era of modern aviation. Furthermore, it is a testament to the strength of this city, the power of innovation and the hope for the future.

I encourage my colleagues to sign on as co-sponsors of this important resolution, and I urge this House to pass it soon.

RECOGNIZING A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EVENTS SURROUNDING INTERNMENTS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of the Japanese, German, and Italian American communities in educating the public about their experiences during World War II. I also commend my colleague, Rep. MICHAEL HONDA, for his efforts in redressing the mistreatment of many American ethnic groups during this period and specifically for sponsoring H. Res. 56, the Day of Remembrance Resolution.

Today we reflect upon the forced internment of thousands of American citizens during World War II. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Secretary of War to incarcerate Japanese Americans in designated areas controlled by the military.

Executive Order 9066 was decreed without the issue of formal charges, warrants or trials; this presidential decree denied thousands of citizens the due process of law that is guaranteed by the Constitution. Executive Order 9066 was born out of the misguided fear that some Japanese Americans might harbor anti-American sentiment and could possibly threaten the nation's security during a time of war.

The execution of this law devastated the lives of many Japanese Americans. More than 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were given one week's notice and told to bring only what they could carry before being forcibly removed from their homes. They were then relocated to internment camps where they lived behind barbed wire and endured such hardships as inadequate medical supplies and insufficient food and water.

Japanese Americans were not the only ethnic group faced with internal prejudice during this period. German and Italian Americans also faced significant intolerance from other Americans during World War II.

Prejudice against ethnic Americans still resonates today. The events of September 11 proved that terrorists threaten our country and our very way of life. Although some terrorists may still inhabit our homeland, we cannot threaten the liberty of every Arab-American in order to get to those that would threaten the United States. In this way, the events of November 19, 1941 are with us as much today as ever.

Today is a day of remembrance and a day of reflection. We must reflect upon the atrocities committed during World War II, upon the internment of Japanese-Americans and upon the prejudice many Americans faced during this time. And we must remember and learn from the mistakes of our past, so that we do not repeat them in the future.